

The image shows the exterior of a modern building, identified as the Office of Court Administration. The building features a prominent central tower with a light-colored, textured facade and a large glass entrance area. In the foreground, there is a well-maintained garden filled with numerous pink and yellow roses. Two black lampposts are visible on either side of the garden. The sky is clear and blue.

# OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

DAVID SLAYTON · ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR



# WHAT IS OCA?

- **Texas Government code Chapter 72**
- **Under direction and supervision of Supreme Court and Chief Justice**
  - **Powers and Duties**
  - **Budgets and expenditures**
  - **Personnel**
  - **Consultation and assistance**
  - **Examine methods and make recommendations**
  - **Annual Report**
  - **Rules**
  - **Grants**
  - **Data Collection**
  - **Court fees and costs**
  - **Electronic Filing System**
  - **Court Performance Standards**

# WHO IS OCA?

- **MISSION**
  - To provide resources and information for the efficient administration of the Judicial Branch in Texas
- Exemplify the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct.
- Advocate and practice efficient and collaborative administration
- Provide prompt, courteous and competent service

# RESOURCES

- **Trial Courts:**
  - Technical assistance, training, and research on court administration, court interpreters, and funding and standards for indigent defense
- **Appellate and Specialty Courts:**
  - Information technology solutions and fiscal consultation;
- **Judicial Branch Regulatory Boards and Policymaking Bodies:**
  - Staffing and support
- **Specialty Courts and the Regional Presiding Judges:**
  - Staffing and administration



# INFORMATION

- **The judicial information website, Texas Courts Online;**
- **Statistics and analysis of court information and case activity;**
- **Descriptions of court system structure and jurisdiction; and**
- **Reports and studies about the courts and judiciary.**

# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **Judicial Branch Certification Commission**
- **Collections Improvement Program**
- **eFileTexas.gov**
- **Texas Indigent Defense Commission**
- **Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service**



# JUDICIAL BRANCH CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

- Established by the Texas Legislature during the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session to enforce government efficiency and create consistency across the regulated judicial professions.
- The nine members of the commission are appointed by the Supreme Court.
- JBCC oversees the certification, registration and licensing of court reporters and court reporting firms, guardians, process servers, and licensed court interpreters.
- By statute, the commission's operations start on September 1, 2014.

# COLLECTIONS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- **OCA's Collection Improvement Program provides a set of principles and processes for managing cases when defendants are not prepared to pay all court costs, fees, and fines in criminal cases at the time of assessment and when time to pay is requested.**
- **As of May 31, 2014, 87 of the 87 counties and cities required to implement a program had fully or partially implemented a program.**
- **The mandatory programs generated an estimated additional \$494,591,672 in state and local revenue for the period of FY 2006 through FY 2013.**





# E-FILE TEXAS

- TX Supreme Court mandated e-filing in civil cases in December 2012 on a rolling schedule based on county population.
- As of July 1, 2014, all appellate courts and counties with a population more than 200,000 are under the E-Filing mandate.
- eFileTexas.gov, is funded through a per-case fee passed by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature. This allows for the system to be cost neutral for the filer.
- The E-Filing program currently covers 74 counties and more than 87% of the state's population.

# TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

- The commission provides financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Constitution and state law.
- Standing committee of the Texas Judicial Council.
- Administratively attached to OCA.



A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie is seated at a desk, wearing a headset. He is looking at a computer monitor. The desk has a keyboard, a mouse, and some papers. In the background, there is a map on the wall and a window with blinds.

# TEXAS COURT REMOTE INTERPRETER SERVICE

- Open to judges in every Texas county and municipality (subject to availability) for just the cost of a phone call or video-conference.
- Experienced and licensed Spanish speaking interpreters provide services in all case types for short, non-evidentiary hearings that typically last 30 minutes or less.
- TCRIS interpreters have conducted 248 hearings since the start of 2014.
- More than 64 judges and 53 counties have used their services.



QUESTIONS?

